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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED  
EXAMINING GROUP 3725  
PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 02886.0088**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Hirotaka TODAKA et al. ) Group Art Unit: 3725  
Application No.: 10/782,759 ) Examiner: Edward T. Tolan  
Filed: February 23, 2004 ) Confirmation No.: 7642  
For: PARTIALLY REINFORCING ) Mail Stop AF  
METHOD AND APPARATUS OF )  
METAL MATERIAL )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**

In reply to the Final Office Action mailed November 27, 2006, and pursuant to  
37 C.F.R. § 1.116, Applicants propose that this application be amended as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments**, including a Statement of the Substance of the Interview,  
follow the amendment sections of this paper.